

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, and 11 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, 7, and 10 have been cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested since the Amendment places the Application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Comay et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,489) in view of Malan et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0035698). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot in view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 7, and 10 to include the subject matter of claims 4, 7, and 10 which were indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

Allowable Subject Matter and New Claims

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 4 and 7 and 10 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claim. In view of the Examiner's Indication, Applicants have amended the claims to include the subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.

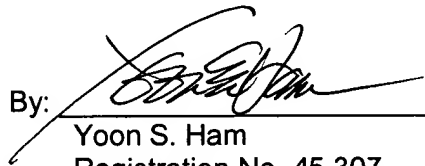
Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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